Generation of electricity from nuclear power

*155. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of electricity generated from nuclear power in the country is much lower than that of developed countries like US, Japan, Germany etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made by Government to augment generation of electricity from nuclear power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The percentage of electricity generated from nuclear power in India is about 3% against that of some of the developed countries like US (19%), Japan (29%), Germany (31%) France (79%) etc.

The low share is on account of the limited nuclear power capacity base of 3900 MWe which is about 3% of the total installed capacity in the country. The corresponding nuclear power capacity in other countries is USA—98,466 MWe, Japan—47,587 MWe and Germany—20,339 MWe.

(c) The current nuclear power capacity of 3900 MWe will reach 7280 MWe progressively by March, 2011 on completion of projects under construction. The XI Plan proposals envisage start of work for 5600 MWe capacity based on indigenous design. The R&D work for implementing three stage nuclear power programme aimed at utilization of our vast thorium resources for large scale electricity production in the long term is being implemented expeditiously. The current initiatives for international cooperation in nuclear energy are aimed at accessing the international market for technologies and fuel, for setting up additionalities to the domestic programme, to enable larger capacity addition, to meet the electricity demand in the near term.